runs North and South; is above a Mile in Length, and near half a Mile in Breadth; ſo that I apprehend there will be a continual Current to the South. A Man was going over the *Moſs* when it began to move: As he was going Eaſtward, he perceiv'd, to his great Aſtoniſhment, that the Ground under his Feet moved Southward. He turn'd back ſpeedily, and had the good Fortune to eſcape being ſwallowed up. I have been at the *Moſs* to make Obſervations every Day this Week: If any thing happens worth your Knowlege, you may depend upon hearing further from,

SIR,

Your very affectionate

Humble Servant,

L. Richmond.

XIII. *A brief Inquiry, by* John Ward, *F.R.S. & Rhet. Prof.* Greſh. *into the Reading of two Dates in* Arabian *Figures, cut upon Stones which were found in* Ireland; *communicated to the* Royal Society, *on* November 10. 1743. *and* December 6. 1744.

Read Feb. 28. 1744-5. TWO Dates in *Arabian* Figures, tranſmitted from *Ireland*, were ſome time ſince laid before this Learned Society. But as the

the Reading, which had been given them, ſeemed doubtful to the Gentlemen then preſent, they were pleaſed to honour me with deſiring my further Thoughts concerning them. Both thoſe Dates are ſaid to be cut on Stones, and in Relief. I conſidered them as carefully, as I was able, and after the ſtricteſt Examination could ſee no ſufficient Reaſon to think either of them ſo old, as had been repreſented. For which Opinion I now take Leave to offer the following Reaſons.

I. One of the Stones, which was found in the Friers Abbey, and is now fixed in the Wall of a Garden belonging to Alderman *Baldwin* in *Corke*, contains together with the Date ſeveral Words cut in capital Letters, as alſo two human Images (one a Trumpeter and the other a Drummer) with other Ornaments and Decorations. (*See* TAB. I. *Fig.* 2.) The Date, as there expreſſed, runs thus: *A. D.* 158. But it is evident, here muſt be ſome Miſtake; ſince it is generally allowed by Chronologers, that this Way of computing Time from the Birth of *Chriſt*, which is called the *Chriſtian Aera*, was not introduced till the ſixth Century, in the Reign of the Emperor *Juſtinian*, and is commonly aſcribed to *Dionyſius Exiguus* (*a*). It has therefore been ſuppoſed, that the Figure 1 is omitted in the Place of Thouſands, which would make the Date 1158; and for which there ſeems to be ſufficient Place, as there is not for any other Figure afterwards. But that the Sculpture on this Stone cannot

(*a*) See Petav. *De doctrin. temp.* L. XII. c. 2, 3. Bever. *Inſtit. chronol.* L. II. *c.* 10. Strauch. *Breviar. chron.* L. IV. *c.* 40. *quaeſt.* 4.

cannot be ſo antient, appears to me highly probable from ſeveral Conſiderations, taken from the Shape of the Figures, Form of the Letters, Spelling of the Words, and Dreſs of the Images.

As to the Figures, I have never met with the Five any thing like the Shape of it upon this Stone (which comes pretty near the modern Form) till the fourteenth Century; except in one ſingle Inſtance of a Date 1295, (*a*) which I had the Honour to communicate to this *Society* upon the Seventh of *June* laſt. In the *Table of Characters* prefixed to N°. 439 of the *Philoſophical Tranſactions* the Figure Five is given from three Writers of the thirteenth Century, in two Forms both very different from that upon this Stone. One was taken from *Maximus Planudes*, a *Greek* Writer, which is like the β of that Language inverted in this manner ϐ; and the other from *Johannes de Sacro Boſco* and *Roger Bacon*, which is made thus ϛ. The latter of theſe continued in Uſe till the Beginning of the ſixteenth Century, as appears from a Manuſcript preſerved in the *Inner Temple* (*b*), bearing Date *the* XXI *Yere of King* Henry *the* VII, *and the Yere of our Lorde* 1505; to which is prefixed a *Calender*, wherein all the Figures are like thoſe of *Roger Bacon*.

The Letters in this Sculpture are mixed, being partly *Roman*, and partly *Saxon*; as we often find, that the Workmen took great Liberties in varying and mixing their Letters. Thoſe of the latter Sort are

(*a*) See *Phil. Tranſ.* N°. 474. p. 91.

(*b*) This they call their *Grace Book*, becauſe it contains, among many other Things, Graces to be uſed before and after Meals.

are D, G, N, and O, the Shape of which may be ſeen in the Draught of this Sculpture. The firſt of them occurs in ſeveral Coins of King *Henry* the Eighth, King *Edward* the Sixth, and Queen *Mary*. And the three laſt are found together, cut in Relief over the Eaſtern Gate of *Lincoln's Inn*, in the following Date, ANNO DNI 1518, the Form both of the Letters and Figures agreeing likewiſe with thoſe of the Sculpture. (*See* TAB. I. *Fig.* 3.) I ſhall only add, what our celebrated Antiquary, Mr. *Camden*, has obſerved, that the *Saxon* Characters were uſed in *Ireland* in his Time (*a*). Nothing therefore appears in the Letters, which can neceſſarily carry the Antiquity of them higher than the ſixteenth Century.

Nor is there any thing in the Spelling of the Words, but what agrees with the Manner of Writing in that Century, more eſpecially while the Orthography of the *Engliſh* Language continued ſo various and uncertain, as it did for the greateſt Part of it. The only Words, that call for any Remarks are *fere* for *fear*, or *feare* with *e* final, *dow* for *do* or *doe*, and *ſhall* and *well* with a double *ll*. As to the firſt of theſe, we then often find the *a* omited in Words of that Form; as *clene*, *clere clerely*, *nere*, *yere yerely*, and the like. And as to *dow* for *do* or *doe*, I meet with *dowthe* for *doeth* or *doth*, and *gowlde* for *golde* or *gold* (*b*). And ſuch Monoſyllables, as *ſhall* and *well*,

(*a*) *Britann.* pag. 730, *edit.* 1607.

(*b*) See Sir *Richard Greſham's Petition* to King *Henry* VIII. *Cotton Libr. Cleop.* E. 4. Sir *Tho. Greſham's Memorial* to Queen *Mary*. *Ibid. Otho*, E. X. 3. His *Memorial* to Queen *Elizabeth* in 1558, found among Lord *Burgley's* Papers, and now in the Hands of *James Weſt* Eſquire.

well, were in the former Part of that Century more commonly written with a ſingle *l* than double *ll*, but afterwards promiſcuouſly, as may be ſeen by the Bibles printed in thoſe Times.

With regard to the Images, King *Philip* is the firſt, whom I have ſeen dreſſed with a high crowned Hat and Feather. Nor does it ſeem improbable, that he might introduce that Faſhion here in *England*. Ruffs do not appear among us till pretty late in the Reign of King *Henry* the Eighth, and were ſmall at firſt; but afterwards they increaſed in their Size gradually, till they became very large under Queen *Elizabeth*, and ſo continued thro' the next Reign, and Part of the following, when they were ſucceeded by broad laced Bands. It is true indeed, that we find Ruffs upon the Images of ſome of our Princes, or other great Perſons, placed on their funeral Monuments, and elſewhere, which ſeem to exceed the Faſhion then in Uſe. But as theſe Images were made after their Death, ſo the Habits are ſuited not to their Times, but thoſe when the Artiſts lived, and the Monuments were erected, where they are found; which Circumſtance, if not attended to, will be apt to miſlead us in ſeveral other Things relating to our Antiquities. The cloſe ſtriped Jackets, ſhaped to the Body, with ſmall Buttons, and ſtriped Breeches, came in about the ſame time with the Ruffs. The ingenious Artiſt, and diligent Searcher into our *Engliſh* Antiquities, Mr. *George Vertue*, ſhewed me a Portrait of *William Herbert*, the firſt Earl of *Pembroke*, ſo habited in the Reign of King *Edward* the Sixth; which, he ſaid, was the oldeſt Picture, that he remembered to have ſeen in that Habit. And he had likewiſe

another of *Edward Clinton*, Earl of *Lincoln*, and Lord Admiral in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Reign, dreſſed with a Cap and Feather, a ſtriped Jacket, ſmall Buttons, and a Ruff.

Theſe ſeveral Conſiderations induce me to think, that this Sculpture was made in the ſixteenth Century, and probably not before the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, conſidering the Largeneſs of the Ruffs, and ſome other Circumſtances already mentioned, which ſeem not to ſuit with more early Times. And from thence I would conclude, that the Figure omitted in the Date muſt have been a Decimal. Some Figure is evidently wanting, which, had it been a 1 in the Place of Thouſands, might eaſily have been ſupplied, tho the Sculpture is in Relief, by fixing in a ſmall Piece of Stone in the Form of that Figure. And that this Miſtake was owing to the Workman may be preſumed from hence, that the Word *you* is likewiſe omitted in the Sentence below.

II. The other Stone was found in an old Caſtle ſince pulled down, which was called *Kilbritain*, in *Iriſh* the *Church* or *Cell*, or rather the *Burial Place of the Britains*. It is now at the Houſe of Mr. *Stowel* at *Kilbritain* near *Corke*, and contains ſome imperfect Remains of an Inſcription, beſides the Date. (*See* TAB. I. *Fig.* 4.) Two Copies of it have been tranſmitted hither, one of which being taken by laying a clean Sheet of white Paper over the Stone, and tracing out the whole Inſcription with a Blacklead Pencil, muſt therefore be the more exact. But ſo ſmall a Fragment only of the Stone has been preſerved, that no certain Judgement can thence be made of the Whole; and not one perfect Word remains

mains upon it, unleſs perhaps the laſt. And as to the Date, which has been read 1035, I cannot come into that Sentiment for theſe Reaſons.

The ſame Objection lies here againſt the Shape of the Figure Five, as in the other Date, for the Reaſon there given. And what has been taken for a Cipher in the Place of Hundreds, I apprehend to be only an imperfect Four, which wants the oblique Stroke, deſcending on each Side tranſverſly from the circular Part in this manner Q; for which there appears to be Room at the Bottom of the Circle, which does not come ſo low as the other Figures before and after it, tho it equals them in Hight at the Top. There is a Sample of this Figure both in *Johannes de Sacro Boſco* and *Roger Bacon*, as alſo in the Manuſcript of the *Inner Temple* cited above, which ſhews that it remained in Uſe till the ſixteenth Century. As this Inſcription is cut in Relief, the extreme Parts of that Figure might as well be broken off, as the much greater Parts of the mutilated Letters in the Lines above it. And I would further obſerve, that the Probability of this Opinion ſeems to be not a little confirmed by a parallel Inſtance of the ſame Figure, which formerly came before this Society, in a Date found at *Colcheſter*; the Figures of which were at firſt thought to expreſs the Year 1090, that in the Place of Hundreds being taken for a Cipher, as in the preſent Caſe, by not attending to the ſide Strokes, which were pretty near defaced; till upon a more accurate View of the Original by a very worthy Member, and skilful Antiquary, that Miſtake was diſcovered, and the Date found to be 1490. For a further Account of which, together with a Draught

of the Date, I muſt beg Leave to refer to N°. 439 of the *Tranſactions* mentioned above. But as this Manner of writing the Four appears as antient as the Time of *Johannes de Sacro Boſco*, who died in the Year 1256, the Age of this *Iriſh* Date cannot ſo well be determined by that Figure, as by the Form of the Five, which follows it, and ſo exactly agrees with the modern Shape, that it cannot, I think, from any Inſtance I have yet met with, be juſtly deemed much older than the ſixteenth Century.

Upon the beſt Judgment therefore, which I can form of theſe two Dates, from ſuch Arguments as the Nature of the Subject admits of, it appears to me highly probable, that neither of them can be more antient, than the Times I have here aſſigned them.

Greſham College,
Feb. 21.
1744-5.

J. Ward.

XIV. *A Letter from the Reverend* Henry Miles, *D. D. F. R. S. to Mr.* Henry Baker, *F. R. S. of firing* Phoſphorus *by* Electricity.

Dear Sir,

Read March 7. 1744-5. IT came into my Head laſt Night, to try whether the *Effluvia* of an excited glaſs Tube would not kindle *Phoſphorus*; and, having been uſing my Tube for the ſake of a little Exerciſe, I took a ſmall Bit of about a Quarter of an Inch

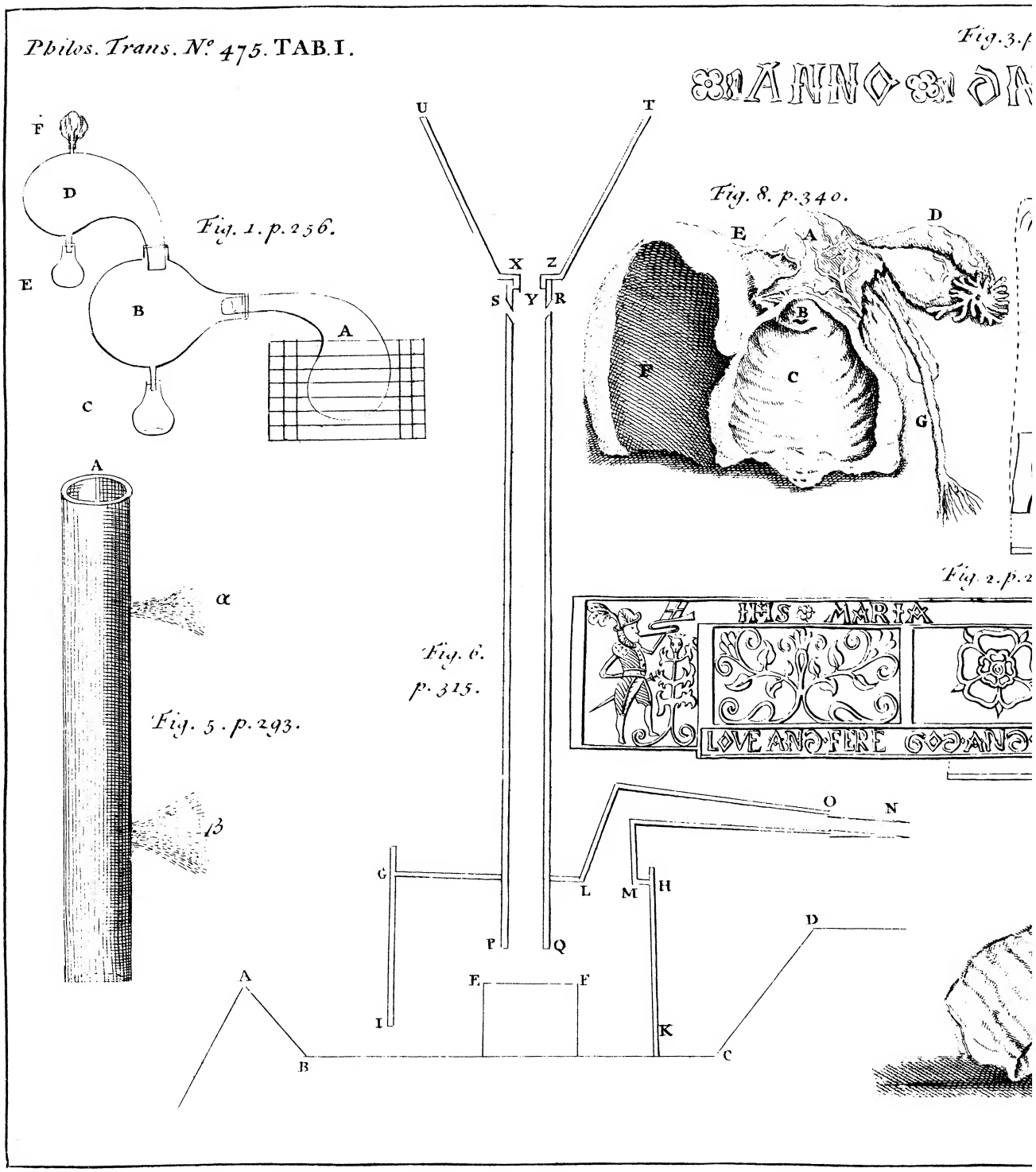
Fig. 1. p. 256.
Fig. 5. p. 293.
Fig. 6. p. 315.
Fig. 8. p. 340.
Fig. 3. p
Fig. 2. p. 2
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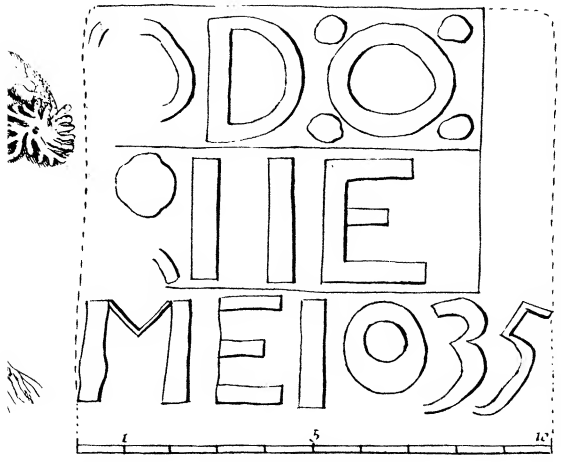
Fig. 3. p. 286.

Fig. 4. p. 288.



A Scale of Inches.

Fig. 2. p. 284.

A Scale of Feet.

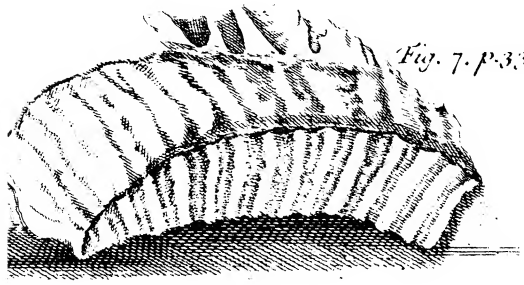


Fig. 7. p. 333.

J. Mynde sc.